



## **February 9, 2009**

Dear Alumni,

We have gone from one extreme (-25°) to another (+48° tomorrow)! We are thankful for even a short reprieve from this very cold winter. We know it won't last but it is a sign of "things to come".

Remember that "Things To Come"? Perhaps you read the book when you were here in your doctrines class on eschatology. Regardless of your views and perspectives on this doctrine, we do know that there is a future. We know that one day "every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord." We know that we will go into the eternal state. And we know that God's truth in the Scriptures is "TRUE" truth, or as Jesus said it, He is "... the Truth." Aren't you glad for the assurances of Scripture that you can rely on this week? They are true!

Today in chapel, the "Works of God" testimonies were an outstanding reminder of God's work among us and the truth of God's faithfulness. I am thankful for our current students. I am thankful for the assurances of Scripture and "Things to Come." I am thankful for you as alumni of Northland!

In Christ,

Dr. Wynne Kimbrough

### **Looking For...**

We would like to locate alumni with whom we have lost contact. If you have an address – mail or email of any of the following graduates, we would love to try to contact them.

#### **Class of 1982**

- David Barribeau
- Vonda Barrington
- Glenn and Sally Forss
- Phil Huggins
- Richard Marshall
- Connie Pesola
- Todd and Patti Rutkowski
- Christine Simonson
- Jim Webb

If you have any information, please contact Jennifer Keith at [alumni@nbbc.edu](mailto:alumni@nbbc.edu). Thank you!

### **Verse of the Week**

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" – Romans 12:10

### **Name of God**

Elohehu Olam – Our Everlasting God (Ps. 48:14)

### **Quote of the Week**

"I touch the future. I teach." – Christa McAuliffe

## ***This Week At Northland***



February 12 – Open Eyes

February 14 – Valentine's Day

### ***If you missed the HEART Conference...***

If you missed the HEART Conference and are interested in a message or session taught last week, go to this address: <http://www.northlandstore.org/index.html> for more information.

If you would like to listen to messages given in chapel during the school year, please go to this address: <http://www.nbbc.edu/ministries/podcast.html>

### ***Travel Schedules:***

Dr. Ollila - February 13 – Bible Baptist Church in Reedsburg, WI

Dr. Olson - February 14-15 – Twin City Baptist Church in Marinette, WI

### ***Alumni Updates:***

#### **Ellis Narcisse III ('05):**

Dear Praying Friends,

What a joy it is to be writing my very first prayer letter as a missionary! This letter has been long overdue, and I appreciate everyone who has prayed for me despite my lack of writing letters. My plan is to now begin regular updates.

I write this letter full of gratitude to our God for all of His grace and help in bringing me to this point in my life. I am simply amazed at God's faithfulness, especially in light of the many times which I have not been faithful to Him. I am also full of gratitude to the many people whom God has sent into my life who have been a blessing and help to me. Many of you I have known for years, and perhaps only the Lord knows the impact that your friendship and prayers have had on my life. So thank you to each of you. Whether you are someone whom I have met only once by speaking in your church, or a long-time friend, I am thankful for your love and prayers. Without your help, my ministry could not take place.

The last Sunday of March in 2008 marked my official beginning of deputation. I was able to present in 7 different churches last year. Although the number of meetings that I had was not as many as I had wanted, I thank the Lord for each opportunity. I had 1 meeting in January of this year, and have 3 scheduled meetings for this February! Currently, I am at 58% of my financial support goal!

The Lord has already blessed in 2009 with the chance to lead 2 young men to Christ! Please pray that Marcus and Ernie would grow in the Lord Jesus. Another prayer concern would be simply my walk with the Lord. I have been challenged in many areas of my spiritual life, and would ask for prayer for the grace to make the changes that need to be made. Finally, I would ask for prayer regarding my specific future place of service in Bolivia as I do not currently know where I will be working.

I continue to press on to serve the Lord, confident that Jesus is still "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6b). I am also praying that the Lord will continue to be pleased to use me right here in Wisconsin. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts which make my ministry possible. Feel free to contact me with any of your prayer requests. May God bless each of you!

Because of Christ,

Ellis Narcisse III - [ellisn3@hotmail.com](mailto:ellisn3@hotmail.com)

## ***Alumni Prayer Requests:***

### **Jesse ('91, '94) and Lisa Armstrong:**

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. God has seen us through another month, faithfully giving the grace and strength needed for each day. We easily get discouraged and lose hope when we focus on our circumstances, but when we catch even a glimpse of God's greater plan, our discouragement and doubt is replaced with a bundant JOY. This has been our experience over the past week, especially. Last Thursday our family endured one of the worst days yet in this journey with ALS, but God knew what was coming, and He had prepared special doses of encouragement to arrive at just the right times.

Wednesday evening just before bed, we checked our email for new messages. There was one particular email that meant a great deal to us. In fact, we couldn't get through it without weeping. Why? Because at a very low time when weariness and troubles distort our perspective and threaten to cast us into despair, God shows Himself at work, and the whole picture becomes clear once again. What became clear to us is that He is still using us in a completely 'hands-off' ministry. We are unable to minister how we would like, and to whom we would like, but God is ministering through our weakness and producing perhaps greater results than if we were throwing our entire physical energy directly into His Work as we did in years past. God sent us a reminder note that all has not been and is not in vain. The following letter (translated) came from Russia from a very dear friend. Here are the words we read last Wednesday night that encouraged us so:

Dear Jesse,

I have wanted to write to you for a long time, but now feel strongly that I want to not only simply write to you, but I want, finally, to tell you thank you for everything. This is in no way connected to your illness. Simply, as time goes by, people may better analyze the events in their lives, and come to conclusions. I remember the time when we were together, in close proximity. I remember our friendship and understand how much you did for me and for my family. When we first met, you could say, that I was in my soul, like a child; likewise in faith. In this you helped me grow; I grew up in front of your eyes. You trained me in the study of the Bible, and by your example. Thank you that you had so much patience, and so much understanding. Of course, I know that the Lord did it all, but He used you 100% for me and for my family.

When I hear sermons in church, often I think: 'Yes, I already know that, because Jesse told that to me.' You are always a good pastor for me, even now, especially now. Thank you that you are always faithful, thank you that you labor so much, and for us also. And look what kind of results: Y. is walking in the Lord. I doubted; you believed; and the Lord knew. I want you to know that I am proud that you are my friend, my brother. I thank God that He sent you and your family to us. Of course, we miss you and worry about you. Of course, it is painful for us because of your disease, but I believe that the Lord is preparing something better for us all.

Sometimes, I remember our conversations, your voice, how you joked, how you were very strict. It's too bad that it's impossible to return to that time. I would have even agreed to have you again dump dirty water on me. The reason for this, so that I might have learned more how to value gifts which the Lord sends. These gifts: family, friends, good and bad moments in our lives, for they are all given for our good. I thank God that I may say now that I love you, and I love Lisa and the boys.

It isn't correct what people say, that time helps you forget. Time helps us to evaluate everything and save only those things that are important and necessary. And the important things remain forever in our hearts. I want you to know that you will always be in my heart. You and Lisa are a very important part of my life, despite the distance between us.

I pray for you, and that is an encouragement, when we can do nothing else to help. Thank you that you haven't abandoned Y and that you still encourage him. With love . . . .

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the world (here in the U.S.), God had put it on the heart of another one of His children to write to us the following very encouraging words, and send the letter on Thursday evening, at the close of our very difficult day:

Jesse,

I wanted to start by saying that I'm confused at how God has chosen to use your life in this way. I am having a hard time seeing how someone that devoted his entire life to Christ can be taken away from us, when I see so many of us so called Christians leaving church and doing nothing with this opportunity that God has given us; when you have spent the last half of your life in danger and have had your family right there with you. I used to think that it was insane to have your family over in Russia, mostly because I resented the fact that we couldn't be with you. I am so proud of the sacrifices you've made for Christ, I wish I could be half the man you've been in your Christian walk. I see the way you have raised your boys and how they love Christ like you always have, I am so proud of you. I just wanted you to know that I now have a new outlook on missions and trying to reach the lost because of you, and your amazing fight to reach those people that so touched your life and have come to Christ because of you. I love you and thank God for you daily.

These are not the only two letters that we have received, but these two were very special. We have received many emails, letters, and cards over the past couple of years that allow us to catch a glimpse of what God is doing through our situation (many from people we've never even met), but the significance of these two recent emails was that God was specifically reminding us that He is still at work, both in Russia and in the U.S. Never has it been more evident that He is doing the work and we are just His vessels. There is no mistaking that He gets the glory for what is being accomplished in the lives of people on both sides of the world.

As we have said before, there is a reason for what we are going through, and we know at least part of the reason. We remember back to a time in Russia when we, together as a couple, asked the Lord to use us more effectively in His work. He answered those sincere prayers by making us weak, so that He could show Himself strong. Therefore, we can thank Him, even in these trials, and find true JOY in knowing that God is answering those prayers.

Because of His grace,  
Jesse, Lisa, Christopher, Corey, Caleb and Coleton  
[jjarmstrong@juno.com](mailto:jjarmstrong@juno.com)

### ***Thought of the Week:***

“I know of nothing which I would choose to have as the subject of my ambition for life than to be kept faithful to my God till death, still to be a soul winner, still to be a true herald of the cross, and testify the name of Jesus to the last hour. It is only such who in the ministry shall be saved.” ~C.H. Spurgeon

